



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**SEPTEMBER 15, 2004**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

PROJECT CEASEFIRE  
**KC FELON SENTENCED, BLUE SPRINGS FELON PLEADS GUILTY  
TO ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARM**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City, Mo., felon was sentenced and a Blue Springs, Mo., felon pleaded guilty in federal court today for illegal firearm possession. Today's sentencing and guilty plea are part of Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

\* **Hector A. Hermosillo**, 24, of Kansas City, was sentenced by U.S. District Chief Judge Dean Whipple this morning to three years and one month in federal prison without parole.

On May 25, 2004, **Hermosillo** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, **Hermosillo** admitted that he possessed a Ruger .45-caliber pistol on Sept. 16, 2002. Under federal statutes, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Hermosillo** has a 2002 criminal felony conviction for possession with intent to distribute marijuana.

**Hermosillo** was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on March 2, 2004, in Kansas City.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jess E. Michaelsen. It was investigated by the Independence, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

\* **Shane M. Burkhart**, 24, of Blue Springs, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith this morning to being a felon in possession of a firearm.

By pleading guilty, **Burkhart** admitted that he was in possession of a Hi-Standard .22-caliber semi-automatic pistol on June 14, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal

for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Burkhart** has two 2003 criminal felony convictions for forgery and leaving the scene of an accident.

**Burkhart** was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on June 30, 2004, in Kansas City.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David A. Barnes. It was investigated by the Independence, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

#### **Project Ceasefire**

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets for federal prosecution persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)